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ANTIMONY IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2004

Consumption of primary antimony in the first 9 months of 2004 decreased by 4% from that of the comparable period of 2003, according to data compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey. Secondary antimony production decreased by 15% in the first 9 months of 2004 compared with that of the comparable period of 2003.

Antimony prices generally rose during the third quarter. The New York dealer price of antimony metal published by Platts Metals Week started the quarter in the range of $1.18 to $1.27 per pound and finished the quarter in the range of $1.32 to $1.40 per pound.

In a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange, Republic Gold Ltd. announced that a significant antimony deposit had been found at its Northcote Project in Queensland, Australia. The firm reported findings of resources grading 2.5% antimony sulfate (Metal Bulletin Daily, 2004).

In mid-September, bids opened for a 70% stake in the world's former leading antimony producer, the Kadamzhaisky Combine of Kyrgyzstan, with three relatively unknown Russian firms the only bidders for the idled plant. The three firms were identified as Lakrent, Akrilan, and Oboronspetsresurs, all from the Moscow area. All three reportedly studied the Combine's documentation last year and earlier supplied it with raw materials. The Government originally set the starting price at $2 million, but the State Property Committee indicated it would be willing to pass it on to an investor free of charge, provided the latter undertakes an obligation to revive the facility. The plant was commissioned in 1936 with a capacity of 20,000 metric tons per year (t/yr). It produced just 1,300 metric tons (t) in 2003 and 1,500 t in 2002. It finished 2003 with debts of $850,000. Kadamzhaisky, located in Kyrgyzstan's densely populated south, hoped to boost 2004 output to 3,600 t, but the plant stood idle most of this year, producing just 318 t of antimony and alloys. The plant reportedly cannot get enough raw materials because its traditional suppliers, Russia and Tajikistan, have redirected their shipments to China, while Kyrgystan's own ore base is largely depleted. Traditionally, Russia takes most of Kyrgyz antimony, and the rest is sold to Europe (Metal-Pages, 2004§[1]).

Reference Cited

Metal Bulletin Daily, 2004, Republic Gold finds antimony ore in Australia: Metal Bulletin Daily, no. 8861-2, September 22, p. 3.

Internet Reference Cited

Metal-Pages, 2004 (September 16), Bids open for Kadamzhaisky, accessed September 20, 2004, via URL http://www.metal-pages.

[1]A reference that includes a section mark (§) is found in the Internet Reference Cited section.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS[1]

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

		2004		
	2003	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Production:				
Primary smelter[2]	W	W	W	W
Secondary	5,600	1,000	1,050	708
Imports for consumption:	26,700	6,880	7,790 r	5,850 3
Ore and concentrate	412	60	938 r	496 3
Metal	4,670	1,770	1,670 r	1,680 3
Oxide[4]	21,600	5,050	5,180 r	3,680 3
Exports:	3,680	1,490	1,210 r	778 3
Metal, alloys, and scrap (gross weight)	771	167	99 r	123 3
Oxide[4]	2,910	1,320	1,110 r	654 3
Consumption of primary antimony	9,230	2,700 r	2,920 r	2,880
Price: Average cents per pound[5]	107.52	127.67	126.32	128.23
Stocks, end of period[6]	W	3,450 r	3,140 r	2,830

rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.
[2]Nearly all primary smelter output is antimony trioxide.
[3]Data for July and August only; September data were not available at time of publication.
[4]Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.
[5]New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.
[6]Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY
IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

(Metric tons, antimony content)

	2004[2]		
Class of material	First quarter[r]	Second quarter	Third quarter
Metal	546	W	W
Oxide	2,680 r	1,830 r	1,690
Other[3]	230	1,310	1,140
Total	3,450 r	3,140 r	2,830

rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 87% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2003.
[3]Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY[1, 2]

(Metric tons, antimony content)

		2004[2]		
Class of material consumed	2003	First quarter[r]	Second quarter[r]	Third quarter
Oxide	7,620	2,240	2,480	2,470
Other[3]	1,610	455	445	409
Total	9,230	2,700	2,920	2,880

rRevised.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 29% of the total antimony in 2003.
[3]Includes ores and concentrates, metal, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 4
REPORTED CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF MATERIAL PRODUCED[1]

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2003	2004[2]		
		First quarter	Second quarter[r]	Third quarter
Metal[3]	2,410	725	715	659
Nonmetal[4]	2,100	1,040 [r]	1,170	1,150
Flame-retardants:				
Plastics	3,680	402	408	342
Other[5]	1,040	534	635	728
Total	4,720	935	1,040	1,070
Total reported	9,230	2,700 [r]	2,920	2,880

[r]Revised.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 29% of the total antimony in 2003.
[3]Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.
[4]Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.
[5]Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY CLASS AND COUNTRY[1]

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class and country	2003	2004					
		First quarter	Second quarter[2]	June	July	August	January-August[2]
Ore and concentrate:							
China	350	60	818	340	216	26	1,120
Other	63	--	120	20	--	254	374
Total	412	60	938	360	216	280	1,490
Metal:							
China	3,350	1,510	776	373	491	361	3,140
Mexico	655	41	192	52	223	103	558
Peru	394	94	43	--	290	--	427
Other	269	118	659	8	161	46	984
Total	4,670	1,770	1,670	434	1,170	510	5,110
Oxide:[3]							
Belgium	2,150	431	588	191	148	76	1,240
China	7,940	2,330	1,940	441	669	1,040	5,980
Hong Kong	1,430	17	183	33	17	33	249
Mexico	7,240	2,070	2,020	674	825	729	5,650
South Africa	2,630	133	278	213	116	--	527
Other	192	68	169	120	2	24	264
Total	21,600	5,050	5,180	1,670	1,780	1,910	13,900
Grand total	26,700	6,880	7,790	2,470	3,160	2,700	20,500
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	59	7	35	3	101	--	143

-- Zero.
[1]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes revisions to prior months data.
[3]Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.